

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of May 2, 2005**

1. **Chief in Meetings (Ward 5):** Chief Creamer met Monday with the Silver Spring District Commander and CDA members regarding issues of concern. She also met with C-SAFE staff on Tuesday regarding long-range planning. *(Police)*
2. **Recruitment:** Eight candidates for Communications are entering the background investigation stage. Of 25 who took the written entrance exam, 16 passed; oral interviews were held over two days this week, with eight passing. *(Police)*
3. **Investigations Report (Wards 1, 3, & 6):** Plans are in effect to respond to a recent pattern of nighttime commercial burglaries in the X Sector. (Ward 6). A suspect has been identified in a shed burglary in V Sector; investigation is continuing into several shed burglary in that area. (Ward 1 & 3). Det/Cpl John attended the US Attorney's sharing meeting regarding burglary and robbery. The third suspect in the 2001 homicide at Hampshire Towers, who had been arrested this February, pled guilty to accessory after the fact in a homicide. He received a three-month sentence and thus is eligible for release. (Ward 6) *(Police)*
4. **Patrol Report (Wards 1, 2, 3 & 6):** Capt. Coursey attended the Montgomery County information sharing session with County and other municipal police. Takoma Park officers participated in a joint DUI sobriety checkpoint Thursday evening on University Blvd. New Hampshire Avenue was among speed enforcement locations and observation details were conducted on Hwy. 410 including Holly and Carroll Avenues, with about two-thirds resulting in citations. Several traffic stops ended with arrests for outstanding warrants and drug possession. *(Police)*
5. **Park Dedication (Ward 5):** Reminder! The dedication of Toatley-Fraser Park is scheduled for next Friday, May 13, 3:30 p.m. at the park in the 8300 block of Eastridge Avenue. *(Police)*
6. **Street Closures:** On Sunday, May 8, 2005 from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Tulip Avenue between Cedar Avenue and Holly Avenue, Birch Avenue between Cedar and Dogwood Avenue, and Barclay Avenue, will be closed for Troop 33 Boy Scouts Soap Box Derby. *(Police)*
7. **Street Reconstruction Update (Wards 1, 2, 3 & 6):** The City contractor was extremely active this week completing the milling and paving of Larch Avenue (from Hayward to City line) (Ward 2), Hopewell Avenue (Ward 6), Minter Place (Ward 2) and New Hampshire Avenue Service Road (from Glenside to Kingwood) (Ward 6). Construction difficulties were encountered on Larch Avenue due to many sections of poor subgrade below the road surface. Additional work completed included a new concrete ADA compliant sidewalk ramp and lowered sidewalk on Westmoreland Avenue and Elm Avenue (Ward 3) and continued curb and gutter work on Baltimore Avenue (from Philadelphia to New York Avenue) (Ward 1). The speed bumps were also re-installed on Garland Avenue (Ward 2). Next week's work will include the traffic calming measure installation on Maple Avenue, reinstallation of speed bumps on Larch Avenue and the remaining curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements on Baltimore Avenue (Ward 1). *(Public Works)*

**8. Tenant Capacity Building Program (City Wide):** The first Tenant Leadership Summit took place on Saturday, April 30 at the Piney Branch Elementary School. Representatives from six rental facilities came together to share their ideas on how tenant associations can work together to accomplish their goals of having well maintained and affordable housing. The recent trend in condominium conversions also was a big concern for these residents. They hope to address the Council in the near future on this issue as well as meet with County Council member Tom Perez to discuss their ideas of how the county can help residents in Takoma Park become homeowners. Community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo led the discussion. Linda Walker spoke about the new Air Conditioning Ordinance and gave a summary of the recent council discussions on Rent Stabilization. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Montgomery County Affordable Housing Conference:** "Work Here. Live Where?" That was the topic of discussion at the 14th Annual Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County, held on Monday, May 2, 2005. With the dramatic increase in the cost of housing in Montgomery County, the focus has become more intense in regard to finding solutions for the affordable housing crisis. There were panel discussions on Funding Sources, Land Use Issues, The Real Cost of Living Far Away from your Job, and How Affordable Housing Fits In with Smart Growth. Linda Walker, Affordable Housing Manager, attended the conference and will be following up on some of the new ideas that were presented at the conference. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project - SHA Sidewalk Retrofit Grant (Ward 1 and Ward 3):** The City has been advised that due to pending budget cuts at the State Highway Administration (SHA), its \$200,000 sidewalk retrofit grant is in jeopardy. If the Sidewalk Retrofit Program is not funded, the commercial section of the Carroll Avenue streetscape project (from Columbia Avenue to Eastern Avenue, excluding Laurel Avenue) will be delayed until alternative funds may be secured. These grant funds had been earmarked for the commercial portion of Carroll Avenue by the SHA Administrator. Staff remains in contact with SHA and will forward information on the status of the grant as it becomes available. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Laurel Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 and Ward 3):** This week the concrete sidewalk was installed and brickwork continued. Two trees were transplanted from Laurel Avenue to Prince George's Avenue. Activities planned for next week include the continuation of the brickwork and the installation of various street furniture. The installation of the driveway and final square of the sidewalk will be delayed until there is more information regarding funding for the commercial section of the project. In support of the businesses located along Laurel Avenue, ads reminding customers that the businesses remain open during the construction period were placed in the Gazette and the Takoma Voice. An additional banner announcing the stores were open for businesses was also displayed near the Laurel and Carroll Avenue intersection. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. NCI Charrette Training:** Senior Planner Ilona Blanchard attended a 4-day training given by the National Charrette Institute on public participation best practices. The course was to learn how to plan and facilitate a charrette. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Eastern Avenue Reconstruction (Wards 1 and 3):** The Housing and Community Development Department hosted a meeting on Wednesday, May 4, for individuals seeking information on the District of Columbia Department of Transportation's (DDOT) plans for the reconstruction of Eastern Avenue between North Capitol Street and Laurel Avenue. The project includes the removal of on-street parking on the Maryland side of the street between Walnut and Laurel Avenues and the reconstruction of the sidewalk on the DC side of the street to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Five residents attended the meeting, providing DDOT's Project Manager, Don Goffredi information on the need to provide for further traffic calming measures along Eastern, the ongoing storm water problems near the Walnut Street intersection, and the impact of the loss of on-street parking near Laurel Avenue. Additional information will be provided as the project progresses. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase - 7044 Carroll Avenue (Ward 1):** HCD staff received notification today that 7044 Carroll Avenue (6 units) is under contract for sale for \$900,000. The tenants have been notified of their rights under the First Opportunity to Purchase ordinance. Staff will be contacting the residents to advise them of the City's Capacity Building Initiative and encouraged to consider organizing a tenant association. The owner has indicated that the building may be converted and marketed for commercial use - as permitted under the zoning ordinance - in the event the sale is not finalized. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Library Damage:** More water damage to the Library and its contents has occurred along the wall separating the building from the new community center. 849 adult non-fiction books were damaged, of which 318 were sent to be salvaged through a special freeze-drying process; 200 will be replaced or discarded; and, 331 were successfully dried in-house. The carpeting in the affected aisles has been commercially dried, but the Library's outside wall is still holding considerable moisture, as detected with a special infrared camera. *(Library)*

**16. The Library in a Convention:** The Library's Linux-based public computer workstations will be featured by Useful as a case study at the American Library Association convention in January. There is particular interest in the Takoma Park Library pilot because of the diversity of its users. On May 26th, representatives of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association will visit the Library to see our Useful module in operation. *(Library)*

**17. Takoma Park Film Festival:** On May 3rd, Council member Austin-Lane, along with Ellen and Jillian of the Library staff, hosted a meeting of what will be a reconstituted planning committee for the next Takoma Park Film Festival. A number of film professionals as well as film aficionados are interested in serving as screeners, hosts and planners. With this meeting, the leadership and coordination of the Festival passes from Library and CUC staff to the new group, although both the Library and CUC, as well as the City's Cable Television staff will continue to offer support. The next Committee meeting will be Tues. May 10th. At 7:30 PM in the Library. *(Library)*